Scheme for development and welfare of tribals

4133. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the special measures, in addition to the schemes already in existence, undertaken by Government, for the economic and social growth development and welfare of tribal people;

(b) what is the perceptible effect caused by such measures and the basis to say so; and

(c) whether the tribal people would ever be brought to the minimum level of living standards of people residing in plains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (DR. RAMESHWAR ORAON): (a) and (b) In addition to the several Central Sector/Centrally Sponsored Schemes/ programmes being implemented by Ministry of Tribal Affairs for the welfare and development of tribal people in the country, this Ministry has launched a new initiative in the year 2005-06 for the development of foest villages. It has also enacted the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006.

Under the scheme of Development of Forest Villages, funds are released to the States for integrated development of forest villages by providing basic minimum services and facilities like approach roads, health care, primary education, minor irrigation, rain water harvesting, drinking water, sanitation, community halls etc.

The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006, which has been operationised with effect from 31.12.2007, seeks to recognize and vest certain rights over forest land in forest dwelling Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers who have been residing in such forests for generations but where rights could not be recorded to ensure (a) tenurial security, providing them relief against the physical and psychological alienation from land belonging to them; (b) livelihood, in terms of agriculture and ownership of minor forest produce, including right to collect, use, and dispose the same; and (c) traditional and customary rights.

(c) The main thrust of present schemes/programmes of tribal development is to bring the tribals into the mainstream and upto the national levels.

Implementation of Forest Rights Act

4134. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of progress made in implementation of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006, State-wise;

(b) how many claim applications in Form-A have been filed, as on 31st March, 2008 State-wise; and

(c) how many tribals or forest dwellers are actually given land pattas, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (DR. RAMESHWAR ORAON): (a) to (c) The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest